

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): Then I say that the number of Nayar houses is more than 157.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That may be. But this information is from the Panchayat President himself.

NAYARAMBALAM VILLAGE—TEMPORARY BRIDGE IN.

163. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon (*Narakkal*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether a temporary bridge was recently constructed over a canal on the road going westwards from Veliathaparamba in Nayarambalam village and whether it was in use for five days;

(b) whether after this period it was removed from there one night and re-constructed over the Banerjee canal in Kadungasseri lane;

(c) if so, who removed the bridge and whether the removal was made under instructions from the Government;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations in regard to this matter from the inhabitants of Nayarambalam village; if so whether any action has been taken on the same?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) Yes, but it was not opened for traffic.

(b) Yes, but not during night.

(c) It was got removed by the contractor at the instance of the Panchayat and the Panchayat Overseer.

(d) Yes.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon (*Narakkal*): Has there been any petition from the public requesting permission to construct a bridge at this place at their own expense?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes. There was a petition. I do not think there will be any objection if they put up a bridge at their own expense.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon (*Narakkal*): But they have not yet got the necessary sanction.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I thought I myself would visit the locality. The bridge, if put up, should not be shifted every third day, and I am sure there was something behind all these things. I thought I would ascertain the real situation and then issue orders. I shall do so, as soon as the budget session is over.

IX—1 (a)

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): What is the amount spent for this bridge?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Not much. I do not exactly remember the amount. It is only a temporary bridge.

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN—STEPS TAKEN.

164. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will the Government be pleased to give a short account of the steps taken and the enquiries made for the purpose of combating mosquitoes?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

A mosquito survey of Cochin and Ernakulam was conducted this year. As a result of the survey, it was understood that the incidence in these places of a particular type of mosquitoes—the *stegomyia* variety—is very high. This is a very harmful kind of mosquitoes, transmitting as they do a very dangerous disease—the yellow fever. In accordance with the advice of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India a scheme for the control of these mosquitoes has been sanctioned. Special staff has been appointed at Ernakulam and Mattancheri to carry on antimosquito work. The work of this staff is directed towards the elimination of all possible breeding places of these mosquitoes by systematic and periodical inspection of private premises.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Sir, in spite of this, mosquitoes are increasing. What is the reason?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): What is to be done? Mosquitoes persist in living. The conditions also are very favourable for their propagation. It is a very difficult problem, and one does not know what to do with these beings. There are various grave complications in places like Ernakulam and Mattancheri. This matter is engaging the attention of the Government; but, unless we know something definite about these proposals, it is very difficult to do any constructive work.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): In Alleppey and Calicut they were able to succeed to a great extent

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There is a difference here. We have got a large tract of marshy land. There they clean the drains and some sort of oil is poured over those drains which will constitute a covering over the water, and these mosquitoes and their breeding places will be destroyed. But here because of these marshy places, the difficulty has been increased by hundredfold. That is the reason.